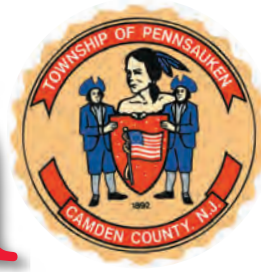


All Around Pennsauken



VOL. 26, NO. 4

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

April 2021

South Jersey Sanitation Sold, Becomes Seaside Waste

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

In early March, Pennsauken Township was notified that our current waste collection contractor, South Jersey Sanitation, Inc., was sold to a group with "over forty years of national solid waste operations experience." This new management team looks to re-brand the company as "Seaside Waste," featuring a new truck color and elevating the level of service.

Having been through the 2019 change from Waste Management to South Jersey Sanitation, I want to be direct with the following statements:

- The trash and recycling collection schedule

continued on page 23

Pennsauken's Best Mom, Dad Or Guardian Contest Returns

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Once again, Pennsauken children have a chance to put a spotlight on the special people in their lives.

An annual contest, children in grades three, four, and five living in Pennsauken may submit a letter saying why they believe their mom, dad, or guardian is the "best." In addition, children participating in remote learning can nominate a loved one as the "best teacher at home."

The contests are sponsored by the Pennsauken Youth Action Committee and the deadline for entries is Monday, May 3.

"Each and every year, we have the distinct pleasure of reading submissions from

continued on page 27

Pennsauken Township, Catalyst Experiential Cut Ribbon On Community Landmark

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

For the past two years, Catalyst Experiential, a Newtown Square-based company that integrates visual communication technology with local landmarks, infrastructure, and community experiences, has worked with the Township of Pennsauken to create something truly unique that welcomes residents and visitors into the community. On Rt. 38, a gaudy, pink-colored building that once held a stereo repair shop has been transformed into a "living clocktower," a landmark with green spaces, water features, and more, all created without any financial cost to the Township or its taxpayers.

"On behalf of myself and the rest of Township Committee, we want to thank Catalyst Experiential for coming into our town and taking something that was a problem and putting up something beautiful like this clocktower," said Pennsauken

continued on page 23



Mayor Marco DiBattista and members of Township Committee join Catalyst Experiential Vice President Amanda Toton to cut the ribbon on the new "Living Clocktower" landmark on Rt. 38.

Pennsauken's New Pickleball Courts Open On River Road

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor



Pennsauken's pickleball fans hit the courts during the grand opening of the town's new pickleball complex.

With a ceremonial snip of the scissors last month, Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista officially opened the Township's new pickleball complex on 6170 River Rd. The fun and engaging sport that combines tennis, ping pong, and badminton has garnered quite a following among a portion of the town's residents.

"We noticed people playing pickleball on Browning Rd., bringing the nets in and

continued on page 27

Look! inside

Tackling Residential
Parking Issues
[See Page 5](#)

Resident Advocates For
Lung Cancer Research
[See Page 8](#)

PSA Announces New
Superintendent, Supervisor
[See Page 18](#)

Ribbon Cutting Held
For Food Pantry
[See Page 22](#)

Plus!

Mayor's Corner	pg. 3
Public Works	pg. 6
In Schools	pg. 11
Waterlines	pg. 20
Food Adventures	pg. 25
In Books	pg. 29
In Sports	pg. 30
Classified	pg. 31

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Mini Clean-Up Events Help Beautify Outdoor Spaces

The Pennsauken Environmental Commission and the Township's Parks and Recreation Department have scheduled several mini clean-up events to help beautify the town's outdoor spaces.

"With the warmer weather, more of our residents are getting outside to enjoy our parks, playgrounds, and green

spaces," said Elwood "Duke" Martz, Pennsauken's director of municipal services who is also in charge of the Parks and Recreation Department. "It's the perfect time for members of our community to get together in a responsible way to give these areas a little extra attention."

There are monthly mini clean-ups scheduled for April and May, then August through October. Each clean-up will have a maximum of 15 people. Participants (individuals or a team of family members) will be provided with trash bags, a bucket, gloves, and a trash picker. As volunteers

will be working outdoors, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

The following are the scheduled clean-ups:

- April 10, 10:00 a.m., Tippin's Pond, 421 Cove Rd.
- May 1, 10:00 a.m., Meadowbrook Park, 2901 Cooper Ave.
- Aug. 29, 10:00 a.m. Pennsauken Creek, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.
- Sept. 11, 10:00 a.m., "The Pit," 4339 Burwood Ave.
- Oct. 2, 10:00 a.m., Tippin's Pond, 421 Cove Rd.

Registration is required by at least two days prior to event. Once there are enough people, volunteers will be put on a waiting list and called if there is an opening.

All volunteers must wear face masks the whole time and practice social distancing. If you feel ill within 24 hours of the clean-up, come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting results from a test; and/or you yourself are waiting on COVID-19 test results or have tested positive for the

virus, please let the organizers know and stay home. There will be plenty more clean-ups to attend when you feel better.

To register, please contact Stephanie Laurick at slauricknature@gmail.com or Duke Martz at emartz@twp.pennsauken.nj.us. Please be include your full name, number of people (family) attending, the date/location of the clean-up of interest, and a good phone number and/or email address to contact in case there is a volunteer cancellation or the event is cancelled or moved to another date.



Important Numbers

Pennsauken Township Municipal Building:
(856) 665-1000

Clerk: x122, 123 or 124

Construction: x130, 131, or 132

Code Enforcement: x134, 136, 169 or 171

Economic Development: x108

Housing/Resale/Rental: x145

Mayor's Office: x152 or 155

Parks and Recreation: x151

Planning and Zoning: x128

Senior Services: x125

Tax Assessor: x112 or 116

Tax Collector: x118, 119 or 121

Pennsauken Country Club:
(856) 662-4961

Pennsauken Free Public Library:
(856) 665-5959

Pennsauken Public Works: (856) 663-0178

Public Safety/Emergency Dispatch: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (856) 663-1234

EMS: (856) 665-2323

Fire Administration: (856) 663-1208

Fire Prevention and Inspection Bureau:
(856) 665-0774

Police Department: (856) 488-0080

Pennsauken Municipal Court:
(856) 663-1403

Pennsauken Animal Control:
(856) 663-3058

Camden County Animal Shelter:
(856) 401-1300

Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill:
(856) 665-8787

**Merchantville-Pennsauken
Water Commission**
(856) 663-0043

Pennsauken Sewerage Authority:
(856) 663-5542

**South Jersey Sanitation
(Trash/Recycling Vendor):**
(609) 561-0441

Camden County Board of Social Services:
(856) 225-8800

**Camden County Municipal Utility Authority
(CCMUA):** (856) 541-3700

New Jersey American Water:
(800) 272-1325

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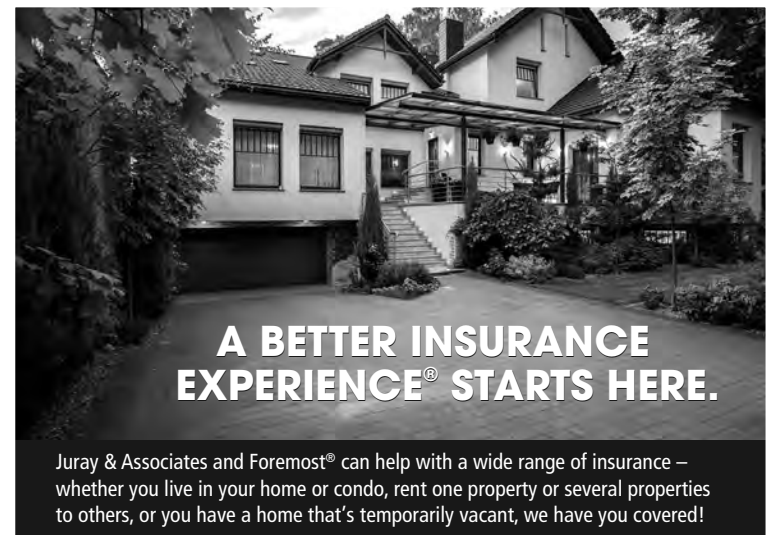
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MAYOR'S CORNER Pennsauken's Vaccine Program Launches This Month



By Marco DiBattista,
Mayor of
Pennsauken
Township

In the past few weeks, the Township, and our healthcare partner, CAMcare, have been able to help several hundred of our residents get their COVID-19 vaccinations at the BB&T Pavilion, while we worked to get Pennsauken's sites up and running. I've got some exciting news: we're now ready to begin administering our vaccine program.

The day this edition of All Around Pennsauken went to the printer, CAMcare's team performed site inspections for two locations in town:

- Pennsauken Fire Station 3, 5301 Lexington Ave.
- Pennsauken Fire Station 5, 511 Union Ave.

We've received approvals from the state, and in the next few days, CAMcare will begin contacting those residents who registered with us to schedule their shot at one of these fire stations. If you've already received the vaccine or made another appointment, just let CAMcare know when they call, and they'll move on to the next person. If all goes well, we should begin administering the COVID-19 vaccine beginning April 10.

I'd like to thank CAMcare, my fellow members of Township Committee, as well as our municipal staff, who worked tirelessly to make sure we can finally offer this service to eligible residents –

particularly those who didn't have access to technology.

Vaccine registration continues at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Complex, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Those eligible individuals can pick up a form on the side of the Municipal Building, located on the right as you enter the complex, in one of the wall file holders under the blue awning. The form can also be downloaded from the Township's website. After it's completed, it can be mailed back to the Municipal Building, or placed in the drop box immediately next to where the forms are located.

After CAMcare processes these forms, individuals who registered will be contacted about how to schedule your vaccination.

While this program will help many of

our neighbors get protected against the coronavirus, we still need to remember that our Township continues to be affected. To date, Pennsauken has seen over 4,000 cases of the virus; and 74 residents have died from COVID-19 related complications. Whether you've already been partially or fully vaccinated, or you're still waiting for your shot, please continue to do the simple things to keep you, your families, and your neighbors safe. Wear a mask. Maintain social distancing. Wash your hands regularly. If we want to see more of our businesses open to full capacity and activities to return, please continue to be responsible.

Have a great month. Wishing you health and safety for you and your family.

Deputy Mayor Officiates First Wedding



Pennsauken's Deputy Mayor Jessica Rafah officiated her first wedding in March. Congratulations to Sara and Diego Bauer!

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ELWOOD DENZ

Elwood (Skip) Denz, Realtor-Associate with over 17 years' experience. Elwood (Skip) is from Pennsauken and spent 19 years in town coaching Baseball, Softball, Soccer, & Basketball for PYAA.

RITA MILO

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TONYA BOYCE

Tonya Boyce grew up in Pennsauken and is currently a long time resident of Merchantville. Tonya is very knowledgeable when it comes to the Local Real Estate Market.

THE MILO TEAM just participated in the sale of 6174 Rogers Avenue – Happy Seller/Happy Buyer.

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TONYA BOYCE is ready to be your hard-working agent. She's ready to sell your home or to help achieve your dream of Homeownership. Call Tonya today at (856)304-0630.

Welcome Aboard!

Under Contract In Less Than A Week



Pennsauken – Chadwyck

Completely renovated...top to bottom! This home has it all. 4 bedrooms including a generous master suite. 2 full baths upstairs. Updated eat in kitchen granite countertops, kitchen island with quartz top, newly renovated half bath on main level and beautiful hardwood floors throughout and the crown moldings are spectacular. Beautiful tile work in entry. Keyless entry. Spacious family room/office space on the main level. And a FANTASTIC finished basement with a wet bar and half bath.

Under Contract In Less Than A Week



Pennsauken – Centennial Walk

Lovely 2 Story 3 Bed 1.5 Bath Colonial. This well maintained home features a formal living room with hardwood floors and gas fireplace and a spacious dining room and sliders that lead out to fenced in backyard. The updated eat in kitchen features a tile backsplash, large island for additional seating and a large window over the sink overlooking the landscaped backyard. The main floor also has an updated powder room and a bonus room/den/office. Upstairs main bedroom with sitting area lots of closet space and the full bath. There are two more bedrooms and an updated full bath. The lower level boasts a spacious Family Room, a laundry area and utility room.



West Deptford – USDA ELIGIBLE!!

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WAGSWORLD Family Stories Become More Real Up In The Attic

By Bob Wagner,
AAP Columnist

Family history has become quite an eye opener for me this year. My mom has moved to a place that specializes in filling the needs of Alzheimer's patients. The results have been well received by

all concerned, the difficulties shared and executed well, and mom's health and well-being are exceptional.

The COVID mess has made visiting difficult, but manageable, and all of us are looking forward to hugs and shared meals. The biggest loss, for me, is mom's position in the family as head historian. For my long lifetime, mom filled in the

gaps when questions arose about ancestry, neighborhoods, geography, politics, and anything "from back in the day."

Yesterday I was deep into packing up books and papers Mom had kept from her high school days to last year. A daunting prospect, made more so by a guy's habit of stopping to read and look at pictures. Tucked away in a large envelope were a treasure trove of papers about my dad, and his entrance into the Army.

As kids, we knew Dad was in Germany, an infantryman, during the battle of the Bulge, in the intense fighting, when Germans were facing the end. We also knew that he had been in flight school, almost completed. I found copies of letters written to the Army, recommending him for officer's status, and entry into the aviation program. Military reports certified his fitness, and early basic training evaluations praised his fitness and readiness for further school.

His class of trainers attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and flight training followed an intense preparedness in classes.

Dad received high marks in all his classes, and was flying in flight school, within weeks of graduation and receiving not only his wings, but his bars as a lieutenant.

Sitting on the floor of the attic, I looked down at a very yellowed official U.S. Army set of orders, with the names of every man in Dad's training class, transferring them to the infantry, effective immediately, leaving for Germany to reinforce the coming Battle of the Bulge.

I recalled the story, told by Mom, that it was the only time in her life she remembered hearing my dad cry. Dad, when it ever came up, especially when I became old enough to join the Army, said "They had plenty of pilots, just not enough infantry." No tears, no further

discussion.

It was never so real, without the class pictures, copies of orders, and letters home.

I'm sitting here, holding his original 1945 issued combat infantry badge. It has never been so real as today!

Mother's Day Flower Sale May 5-9

Merchantville Masonic Lodge #119, 6926 Park Ave., Pennsauken, will hold its annual Mother's Day flower sale from May 5-9 in the Lodge parking lot.

Hours are from 9:00 a.m. until dusk, rain or shine. For more information, call R.W. Ray Taylor, Sr., P.G.C. at (856) 663-1719.



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PENNSAUKEN APRIL PUBLIC MEETINGS

April's public meetings are being held remotely via Zoom.

Details on how the public can participate can be found on twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

Township Committee
April 1 and 15, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment
April 7 and 21, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board
April 6 and 27, 6:30 p.m.

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Tackling Residential Parking Issues In Pennsauken

By Lt. Gerald Henkel, Pennsauken Township Police Department

In the past few months, the Pennsauken Police Department has received numerous calls about residential parking issues. These complaints are especially important to our residents who live on streets where parking spots are more limited. The most common situations are related to abandoned vehicles, trailers, boats, and commercial vehicles. In an effort to alleviate these complaints, we would just like to remind residents that there are several Township ordinances that address these complaints. Our goal

is to improve the quality of life for all the residents of the community.

Township ordinance 296-4 prohibits the parking of "motor homes, campers, landscaping trailers, boat trailers, car or other vehicle trailers, or other recreational trailers" and the like on Township streets. There is an exception. If a trailer is being actively used for commercial purposes (work is actually being performed on site), and that trailer is placed in a safe location, not a traffic hazard, and warning cones and/or signs are placed at their rear of the trailer, it can be temporarily parked on the street.

Township ordinance 299-10 prohibits the overnight parking of trucks and buses with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 7,000 lbs. on any street in Pennsauken between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. on any day.

When it comes to abandoned vehicles, a car, truck, etc. is considered abandoned if it does not have any registration

or has not been moved for an extended period of time. So a vehicle can have a valid registration and still be considered abandoned if it hasn't been moved for a while. Examples of this include a vehicle with flat tires; debris on or around the vehicle; and our inability to make contact with the registered owner. When reported, Pennsauken Police place an

"Abandoned" sticker on the vehicle and give the owner 48 hours to remove it. After the 48 hours, the vehicle gets impounded.

If any resident has questions, they can contact the Pennsauken Township Police Department's Traffic Division at (856) 488-0080 x2207 or ghenkel@pennsaukenpolice.org.

Local Food Pantries Helping Those In Need

The following is a list of Pennsauken-based food pantries that regularly assist local families in need:

- Circle of Hope (food delivered to an individual's home); every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 320-8230
- Gates of Praise, 6345 Wisteria Ave.; every second and fourth Friday, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; (856) 473-5417
- Love Ministries Outreach International, Inc., 1601 Bethel Ave.; every Tuesday and Thursday, as well as every second Monday, 10:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 356-2675
- Martin Luther Chapel, 4100 Terrace Ave.; every second Wednesday, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; (856) 665-0116
- Mary Queen of All Saints, 4824 Camden Ave.; every Saturday, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. (856) 662-2721

- Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd.; every first Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 662-8500
- Saint Matthew's Methodist Church, 1665 Derosse Ave.; every third Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; (856) 662-3610
- Serenity Christian Worship Center, 3555 Haddonfield Rd. - Suite B; every third Friday, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and every third Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 330-4915
- Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 N. Rt. 130; every fourth Saturday, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.; (856) 663-7783

Volunteers, as well as food and financial donations, are greatly appreciated by these organizations; to do so, please reach out using the contact information provided in this article.



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Pennsauken PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

While reviewing my article from 2020, two distinct differences pop-out at me. The first is my initial reporting of how Public Works was adapting to the developing COVID-19 situation. I hope the world is in a different position during my review of this article in 2022! The second is the stark difference in snowfall between this year and last. In that article, I asked, "What has happened to our traditional Northeast winter?" I think our recent February 2021 snowstorms answered that question confidently!

I wanted to take a moment and acknowledge the upcoming retirement of one of our team members, Luis Quinones. Luis started his employment with the

Staff Retirements And Additions, Springtime Preparations

Township in July of 2007 and served the Department of Public Works as a laborer, truck driver, and ultimately advancing to the title of street sweeper operator. He dedicated many of his years of service to the maintenance of our parks, alongside his colleagues on the parks crew. I have managed dozens of employees between my time in the skilled trades and here in the public sector and can honestly say that Luis ranks at the top of my list of those who are a pleasure to work with. From a managerial perspective, this is an employee who has been dependable, arrived ready to work each day, and rarely missed work. He got along well with the entire crew over the years and was known for his laid-back personality and friendliness. All of these traits made his advancement to street sweeper operator

a simple choice for the Department of Public Works management. Luis's character, personality, and work ethic defined his employment with Pennsauken Township. I, along with Public Works' management and crew, wish Luis a long, healthy and relaxing retirement.

One of the bright spots we've experienced during these dark times is the arrival of our new office clerk, Ms. Erica Escalera, to our team. In her short time here, she has proven to be a quick study, friendly, and offers residents that speak Spanish as a first language the ability to communicate easily with our department. Gone are the days of my frantic typing of sentences into Google Translate to communicate with residents! I wish her luck in her new role and know she will find fulfillment in her work at the Department of Public Works, as we do.

Although vaccinations are occurring and social distancing efforts are still in place, we ask that residents contact Public Works via phone, email and social media to avoid a trip to our location. The main reason to visit our location was to pick up a recycling bucket. We have adopted the model of delivering these to reduce interactions here at our site.

Camden County Recycling Events

Camden County has posted its 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Events, with April 10 as the next event. Conveniently, this will be held at the Pennsauken Landfill at 9600 N. River Rd., right here in town. And if you can't make that one, a second event will be held this month on April 24 at the Collingswood Public Works Complex, 713 N. Atlantic Ave. Both will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00

p.m. and will be held rain or shine. For more information on what is accepted and not accepted at these events, call our office at (856) 663-0178.

Spring Cleaning

Springtime is a chance for all of us to help Pennsauken "bloom." You can count on the crews at your Public Works Department to get our parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields in top shape for the fair-weather activities. From inspecting playground equipment to replacing playground mulch to replacing trash and recycling containers, spring is a busy time. Wednesday continues to be the town-wide yard debris pickup day. This is a great way to dispose of branches that may have fallen over the winter because of wind. We kindly remind you to bundle sticks and branches in lengths three feet or less and not weighing more than 50 pounds. For firewood-sized pieces, call the office for a pickup.

Be sure to check my other article on the front cover regarding changes to our Waste Contractor, South Jersey Sanitation, Inc.

As always, we're here to help and hope you continue to be safe. Have questions or concerns? Contact Public Works at (856) 663-0178 or publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

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TALKIN' TRASH

Trash and recycling collection, as well as yard waste and white goods pickup, are on normal schedule this month, extreme weather permitting.

Camden County has scheduled two Household Hazardous Waste collection events this month: Saturday, April 10, at the Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill, 9600 River Rd., and Saturday, April 24, at the Collingswood Public Works Complex, 713 N. Atlantic Ave. Both are held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Social distancing guidelines will be required for participants. For details, call (856) 858-5241.



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PHS Teacher Shares Love Of Music At New Studio Location

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

A teacher from Pennsauken High School is encouraging the love of music and song at a brand-new studio location.

Kate Guenther has been teaching theatre and vocal music at PHS since 2005. She formed Musik Haus in 2008 and just recently moved into a larger, more open space.

"The property is amazing," said Guenther, who teaches kids from Pennsauken and the surrounding areas. "The amount of natural light that pours into each of the

studios creates a warm, encouraging environment for every student."

Kate, along with two other teachers on staff, tailor instruction to the needs of each student.

"I've always tried to make it fun and encouraging. It's about the individual. I want them to enjoy what they're learning, experience a lot of different music and styles, and learn what makes each thing important to their growth as an artist."

The Musik Haus staff is currently of-

fering lessons for piano, voice, and guitar for students of all ages and levels, but can also bring in different teachers based on the instruments individuals are interested in learning. They're also planning several outdoor performances in the coming months.

"We're looking to get back into performing and putting together some cabarets as the weather warms up," said Guenther. "We can't wait to get back to sharing music and theatre with our community."

Musik Haus Studios are located at 509 Howard St. in Riverton. For more information, visit musikhausstudios.com.



Pennsauken theatre and vocal music teacher Kate Guenther moved Musik Haus Studios to a larger, more open space.

Frost Advocates For Lung Cancer Research Funding, Affordable And Accessible Health Care

Le Ann Frost, a Pennsauken resident living with stage 4 lung cancer, spoke with her members of Congress last month to raise awareness about the disease and demand action. Through the American Lung Association's LUNG



Le Ann Frost

FORCE initiative, Frost joined together with others personally affected by lung cancer to advocate for \$46.1B in funding at the National Institutes of Health, \$10B for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, adequate, and accessible healthcare.

Due to the continued impact of the

COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Advocacy Day event was conducted virtually to allow this important message to be heard while also protecting the health and safety of patients and caregivers. During the virtual Advocacy Day, Frost spoke with a Senator Bob Menendez staffer and other state legislators, to share her personal experience with lung cancer and explain why investments in pub-

lic health, research funding and quality and affordable healthcare are important to her. Frost, diagnosed with stage 4B lung cancer, even though she had never smoked, participated not just because of her own brave battle, but also the loss of her mother, sister, and father to the disease.

It is estimated that in 2021 alone, there will be over 5,900 people in New Jersey diagnosed with lung cancer and 3,050 will succumb to the disease. But more people than ever are living with lung cancer in part because survivors are sharing their stories and policymakers are taking action in response. That's why Frost told her story with lawmakers and others—so that

more can be done to help lung cancer patients and their caregivers throughout the United States and in New Jersey.

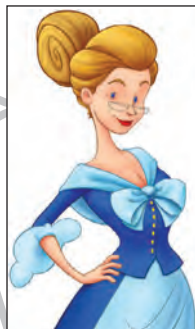
"Meeting so many lung cancer patients from across the country was a reminder of how devastating lung cancer is, but it also demonstrates that there is hope," Frost said. "It's critical that we focus on finding new treatments and better methods of early detection that can save lives, and I hope Congress continues to invest in public health and research funding."

For more on Le Ann's story, visit www.lung.org/lung-force/lung-force-heroes/leann-f.

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AARP AARP Tax-Aide Services Extended To May 17

When the IRS extended the 2021 Tax Season to May 17, AARP Tax-Aide was right there, doing the same for their on-line services.

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan, several benefits were made retroactive to 2020, affecting not only those who had previously filed, but also putting a pause on those yet to file awaiting IRS guidance. As of this writing, it is unknown how the up to \$10,400 unemployment tax forgiveness will be administered or the excess advanced premium tax credit (APTC) repayment will be handled. Once those issues have been resolved, the AARP Tax Assistance help desk will be available to answer questions by either calling 888-AARP NOW (888-227-7669) or visiting aarpfoundation.org/taxaide. You do not need to be an AARP member to take advantage of these services.

AARP tax preparation with online assistance can be reached through the AARP Tax-Aide Foundation's website: www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide. This service will continue to be available through May 17 to those who have not

filed their taxes. However, it is recommended by the IRS that those with large amounts of untaxed unemployment and/or APTC not file until the new guidance has been established and the software updates made.

Online tax self-preparation is available to taxpayers with a Windows 10, Apple MacOS or Chrome OS computer with a reliable and secure internet connection or have a mobile device that has an Android (version 5 or above) or iOS (version 12 or above) operating system. Under this model, AARP Tax-Aide Foundation provides taxpayers with two options. First, there is free access to software so they can prepare their own taxes; this software is free only with certain income limits. The second option is that taxpayers can also request help from an IRS-certified counselor to coach them through the process of preparing their own taxes – without income limits – by phone or through screen sharing. Your request will be responded to within a day or two by a call or text by a Tax-Aide associate.

Taxpayers can also request assistance

with their PTR forms (Senior Freeze/Blue Book) through the AARP Tax-Aide Foundation's website www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide by checking State Tax Return Assistance and noting in Comments: PTR. Participants must provide a private email address when completing the application form, but computer access is not required for providing assistance.

Taxpayers not very comfortable with technology are encouraged to enlist the help of family or friends for completing the tax return. But, please be assured that the AARP counselors are very patient; they get as much satisfaction in helping taxpayers complete their own tax return for the very first time electronically as the taxpayer gets when they realize that they did it themselves, with a bit of coaching.

Please do not contact the Pennsauken Library about the AARP Tax-Aide service offerings. They are wonderful, supportive hosts, but they are not AARP Tax-Aide volunteers. The link referenced above has been shared with the Library. As of this writing, the Library's public computers are not available for use.

Easter Bunny And Friends Visit Pennsauken



In lieu of the Township's annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pennsauken's Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a drive-thru event for families.



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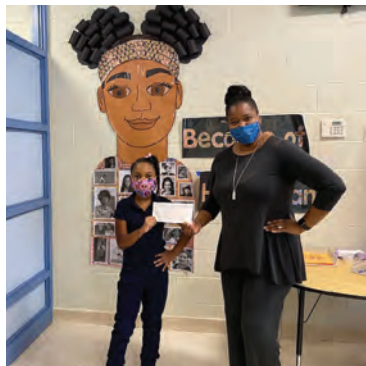
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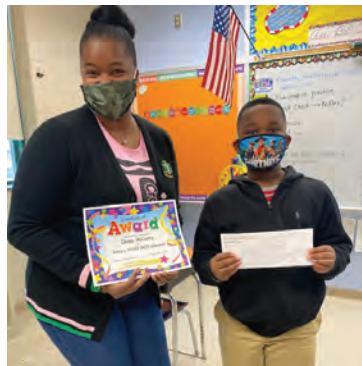
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Third Grade Reflex Math Champions In Delair



Congratulations to Darleny Soriano and Chase McCurry for mastering all of their multiplication facts in Reflex! Team Delair salutes you! Students were awarded a certificate and a special surprise from Principal Lawrence. We can't wait to highlight more third graders for this accomplishment!



Snow Making Fun At Phifer



Phifer students in Mrs. Dodimead's class enjoyed making their own snow in science class! We never get enough of beautiful Mother Nature!

Franklin Celebrates One Hundredth Day Of School



Kindergarten students at Franklin made special hats and necklaces for the 100th day of school!

The 100th day of school was Feb. 17. To celebrate, Ms. Bowman's B day kindergarten students at Franklin Elementary made 100th day hats, with 100 stickers; 100th day cereal necklaces; wrote 100 rhyming words throughout the day; and did 100 exercises. Our A day students also participated by live streaming into the classroom throughout the day for each activity.

Ms Vesper's first grade class celebrated 100 days of hybrid learning, counting to 100 and also making necklaces. For their reading experiences, students wrote 100 words they know. It was a fun time and a different way to celebrate 100 days of learning!



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Homemade Meatball atop our homemade gravy with melted provolone cheese and grated romano cheese	Caesar Salad Romaine lettuce, cherry tomato, grated romano cheese and caesar dressing on top of provolone cheese. (Grilled chicken additional charge)
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By the Pennsauken Board of Education:
Nick Perry, President; Diane Johnson,
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Esports At Pennsauken High School

Hurley; Maria James; Samer John Jarboub-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; Orlando Viera; and JoAnn Young

Pennsauken School District proudly offers an extensive variety of educational opportunities and extracurricular activities to all students. There are many academic options for students, as well as Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Pennsauken Public Schools

offer 13 different sports at Phifer Middle School and 29 different sports at Pennsauken High School. In the last few years, new sports like Crew and Ice Hockey were brought to PHS. Now we are proud to introduce Pennsauken High School's first Esports team!

Esports, short for electronic sports, is the term used to describe competitive video gaming, which is played between teams governed by rules and guidelines. Pennsauken High School's Esports league is organized by the Electronic Gaming Federation (EGF). EGF is also connected to several college programs, which gives students the opportunity to receive scholarships for gaming. The Esports industry is growing fast, unlocking viable employment opportunities in the field of digital sports. By offering Esports

as an extracurricular activity, schools reach students who might not have joined other sports or clubs. Students involved in the school community are more successful in many ways.

The PHS Esports season began the week of Feb. 15 and will end mid- to late April. The team currently has 20 students and are several matches into the season. Teams compete in matches once a week for nine weeks. They compete in a game called Rocket League and the matches are three on three. Rocket League is a sports-based video game, where players are working to advance their ball down the field in cars to score in their opponent's net. It's like the game of soccer, but uses cars instead of people. PHS Esports consists of five teams with four students on each team; one player on each team

is the backup/substitute. There are nine freshmen, eight sophomores, two juniors, and one senior. Their coach, Mr. Guillermo, is a chemistry teacher at Pennsauken High School.

The Esports program is also expanding into Phifer Middle School later this spring, as the result of a grant recently received by the Pennsauken Athletic Department from the Special Olympics of New Jersey. Pennsauken has become a Unified Champion School and by doing so, we will be able to add additional Unified Sports to the Intermediate School and the Middle School.

Thank you to Mr. Guillermo and Mr. Snyder for taking the time to answer some questions which helped complete this article. We are excited to see this program grow and watch the students succeed!

Carson Third Graders Mastering Multiplication



Carson third graders participate in an online competition using a web-based game called Gimkit.

Third grade students at Carson School are working on mastering their multiplication facts! Each day, students practice their facts with timed tests and Reflex Math.

On Fridays, Mr. Sax and Mrs. Kosmaczewski's in-person students, along with Mrs. Brennan's remote students and Mrs. Eckert, participate in an online game called Gimkit. We work as teams to see who can earn the most "money." The teachers love to get in on the fun too and Mr. Sax is still undefeated!

Delair Holds Super Readers Day



Delair teachers Mrs. Avery and Ms. Gillis celebrated Super Readers Day during Read Across America.

Super first grade teachers, Mrs. Avery and Ms. Gillis, showed their wonder-twin powers as Delair celebrated the final day of our Read Across America Celebration.

Super Readers Day was a day to share the story, "Malala's Magic Pencil," by Malala Yousafzai and remembered that not all heroes wear capes! We dressed up in our superhero gear and went outside for a beautiful "Drop Everything and Read" activity at the end of our week-long celebration.

Kudos to these dynamic Delair first grade teachers for getting in the spirit of celebrating heroes everywhere!

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi,
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M.A.², Ed.D., Ph.D.,
Superintendent,
Pennsauken Public Schools

Pennsauken Public Schools have entered the month of April; and if you can believe it, the school year is almost over! In approximately two months, the 2020-2021 school year will be in our past. First, I am grateful to God that Pennsauken Public Schools were able to stay open all year. This has been a challenging year for everyone, and the education of our children was not halted this school year. Second, I am grateful to the parents and students for working with our A/B and remote learning schedules this year. These schedules were created to accommodate the individual desires of the parents and guardians for their children. Lastly, I am grateful to our staff that has accommodated the District per federal and state CDC guidelines. Our students have been able to be educated, fed in school, socialize, play organized sports, and most importantly, learn during a time of uncertainty. For that I say thank you!

As we approach the summer, I would like to be able to help students that have had a hard time this school year academically.



Pennsauken Public Schools will be launching a summer credit recovery for students this summer for grades 1 through 12. This recovery program will help those students who have struggled academically to catch up and allow other students to academically enrich themselves this summer. We will be opening four buildings for "Pennsauken Summer School 2021." Additionally, we will be hosting our annual "Strength and Speed Camp" this summer, along with our "Career and Technical Education Trades Camp." Our student-athletes will have the option of honing their athletic skills that were halted during the pandemic and we will be introducing the trades to our middle school students that have an interest in specific vocational fields, including automotive, carpentry, cosmetology, culinary arts, electrical construction, welding, Air Force JROTC, and HVACR. If you are interested in any of the afore-

mentioned programs, including PPS Summer School 2021, please reach out to your building principal. Sign-ups from central office will be coming shortly.

We hope and pray that we will soon be on the other side of the pandemic. In order to keep our students, staff, parents, and community safe, we will continue with our current schedule until the end of this school year. Moreover, our summer programs will also be on a full day A/B schedule. It is our hope that in September 2021, we will be back to normal for the 2021-2022 school year. Now something to make you smile... There have been many students that are utilizing our new facilities during this time to prepare for their upcoming athletic season. Included with this article is a picture of our students using the "Rick Taylor Field House" that you voted for in our 2018 bond referendum. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these students!

Delair's Custodian Donates Bottled Water To Students



Thank you to our caring custodian, Mr. Ryan, who donated bottles of water to our students!

After our recent pandemic response team meeting about reopening our gymnasium, which was under construction, Delair's custodian, Mr. Ryan McLaughlin, blessed every classroom with two cases of water. Since the pandemic does not allow our water fountains to be open, Mr. Ryan decided to donate cases of water for any child who does not have a water bottle from home.

This display of compassion and caring does not go unnoticed! We are super grateful for Mr. Ryan and his dedication to our students and our school!

Preschoolers Thriving Through Remote Learning



Preschoolers in Mrs. Jalosjos' remote class at Baldwin are thriving and learning!

Mrs. Jalosjos' Pre-K students manage to thrive through remote learning, despite of the challenges and obstacles that come with online learning.

They easily learned how to operate their chrome tablets and were able to effectively use the technology resources provided to them. Mrs. Jalosjos' remote preschoolers demonstrated confidence and engagement during online class sessions, even when faced with distractions and technology glitches.

The distance learning environment did not stop them from learning and having fun. Whether they are learning with Smart Learning Suite Online, utilizing household items to explore, or developing their gross motor skills through virtual activities, they enthusiastically participate.

Home support is definitely evident and Mrs. Jalosjos' class is fortunate to have the full support and assistance of their parents and guardians.

Keep up the great work!

Kind And Caring Students At Carson

The children in Mrs. Coleman's class at Carson School read "Mr. Tannen's Tie Trouble." The story is about a wonderful principal, Mr. Tannen, who helps his school earn money to build a new playground. He decides to sell all of his ties to make money. Each of the over 1,000 ties he sells represents his favorite things.

Mrs. Coleman's class completed a project in which each student wrote about some of their favorite things and shared them with the class. They also created a "tie" that represented many of the items that they wrote about.

Each student listed a price that they would sell their tie for and wrote about

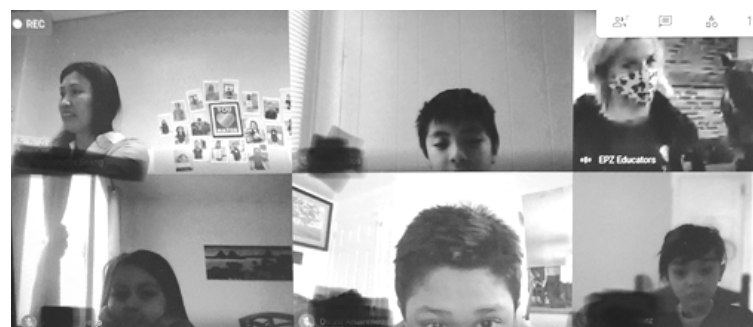


Carson students created special "ties" after reading the story, "Mr. Tannen's Tie Trouble."

what they would do with the money, such as to help a charity or people in need.

Mrs. Coleman is very proud of the ideas that her students came up with. They are all very kind and caring children.

Temple University's Stella Remotely Visits Students



There was a local celebrity sighting in the first grade remote ELL classroom at Fine Elementary School! Stella, the owl and official mascot for Temple University, made a virtual cameo. The zoo educators presented facts about Stella and her life at the Elmwood Park Zoo.

Phifer Students Throw Strikes At Pinsetter's

Mrs. Aviles and Mrs. Brewster's classes from Phifer Middle School enjoyed a fun morning of bowling at Pinsetter's! The students were able to throw some strikes and spares and enjoyed seeing their scores increase. They were able to relax and have fun with their classmates while learning skills such as turn-taking and good sportsmanship. A fabulous time was had by all!

Mrs. Aviles and Mrs. Brewster's classes from Phifer Middle School enjoyed a fun morning of bowling!





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Read Across America At Phifer



Phifer Middle School celebrated Read Across America, a program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, which is also the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Blair dressed as the Cat in the Hat!

Kindness Month At Pennsauken Intermediate School

The Pennsauken Intermediate School celebrated Kindness Month during February. Students rallied to collect toiletry items, including toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and hand sanitizer, as part of their continued interest in helping others.

Additionally, the Intermediate School students donated their time during lunch periods to decorate placemats. The colorful place mats will brighten the day for many of Pennsauken's senior residents.

The toiletries and the placemats will be donated to the Pennsauken Towers Senior Apartment Housing in Pennsauken. Congratulations to our Intermediate School students on a job well done!

Phifer Staff Treated To Morning Coffee And Tea



Phifer's Middle School principal, Ms. Allen brings joy to her teaching staff as she rolls around her morning coffee and tea cart. A great way to start the day!

Fine Students And Staff Kick Off Their Shoes

During the month of February, students focused on learning and practicing empathy, kindness, and compassion. As a month-long activity, students and teachers across the district donated shoes to Soles4Shoes, an organization that turns unwanted shoes and puts them to good use, providing relief, creating jobs, and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.

The best way for students to put their learning into action is by being of service to others. Students not only did something kind for someone else but learned about how their gently used shoes can help those less fortunate.

The students and teachers of the Pennsauken School District were able to collect over 350 pairs of shoes to help this non-profit.

A special thank you goes out to Fine school counselor, Florentina Crawford, for organizing this great initiative!

ROAR! Dinosaur Fun At Franklin

Franklin Gym teacher Audrey Levecchia goes above and beyond to engage even the youngest of learners. Here she is during a remote learning day due to a snow closure, dressed as a dinosaur. Mrs. Barbara's PSD class studied Rocks during the month of February and their fossil discussions quickly led to all things dinosaurs!



Celebrating Students Of The Month



Phifer Middle School students continue to shine in the middle of a pandemic, as they display great achievement in the areas of grades, attendance and citizenship! Continue to shine bright Phifer students!

Celebrating Black Excellence At Fine

This year at George B. Fine School, we took a step away from using the term, "Black History Month." Black history is American history; and it is woven throughout our daily instruction and curriculum. In other words, we do not take just one month of the year to discuss or teach Black history.

Instead, we celebrated Black excellence throughout history and the modern day. Each morning, Mr. Honeyman would highlight one person and detail what is exceptional about that individual.

Oftentimes, the person spotlighted was an unfamiliar name that many people might not know. Names like Acel Moore, Molly Williams, Faith Ringgold, and LeVar Burton, just to name a few. Sometimes, videos accompanied the loudspeaker presentation each morning during each class' "morning meeting."

The overall message this year is that excellence shows up in people famous and not so famous and not just in years past. We are living with people of excellence today!

National Honor Society Holds Blood Drive

The PHS National Honor Society is hosting its annual American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 27, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave.

All youth donors under the age of 21 will receive a \$10 e-gift card via email for donating!

Advance registration is required for this event. To sign up, visit RedCrossBlood.org and use the sponsor code: Pennsauken HS. Donors can also save time on the day of the donation by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/rapidpass.



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Woman's Club Members Attend CEO Day

Members of the Woman's Club of Merchantville, a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, attended their first Civic Engagement & Outreach (CEO) Day via Zoom. The Garden District is one of six of the NJSFWC that has planned their own day with speakers of interest in their area for their members. Merchantville member, Geri Tabako, organized and chaired this event.

Speaking at the March 18 Garden District CEO meeting were speakers representing Wreaths Across America, the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, Veteran's Haven, and the Battleship New Jersey. Time was allowed for questions between each speaker.

The Club is looking forward to the warmer weather when they can once again meet outside until we can safely meet in-person at the Merchantville Community Center. Members have kept busy over the winter, sewing and filling bags for Operation Smile, making

"thinking of you" cards, and collecting DVDs and CDs for nursing homes, and donating lap blankets. They also will be holding their annual plant sale.

The NJSFWC, a volunteer, community service organization, was founded in 1894 and is headquartered on the Douglass College campus in New Brunswick. The NJSFWC founded the New Jersey College for Women in 1918. In 2019, the organization, with a membership of over 6,300, reported almost 21,600 community service projects, involving over 498,000 volunteer hours and \$3.4 million in cash and in-kind donations. The NJSFWC is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and is the largest and oldest women's volunteer community service organization in the world.

For more information about the NJSFWC and/or membership in the Woman's Club of Merchantville, contact Jan at janwh@aol.com or (609) 410-4650.

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PSA Announce New Superintendent, Supervisor



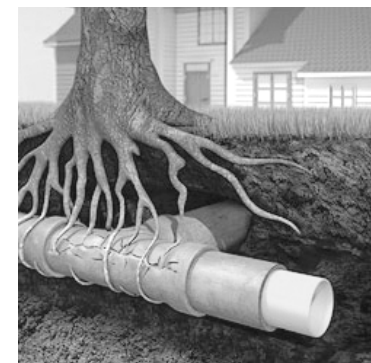
The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is excited to announce Anthony Figueroa, our new superintendent; and Patrick Olivo, our new supervisor. Both have years of invaluable experience with the authority and we are excited as they take these next steps in their careers!

Tree Roots Can Block Sewer Lines

With spring also comes renewed and vigorous growth of tree roots that can block sewer lines. We take every possible effort to keep our main lines free of roots through our maintenance program. The lateral line from your house to our main line, however, is the homeowner's responsibility.

If you have had a problem in the past, you are probably aware of the signs to

look for (slow drainage or a periodic back up). If you experience these problems, consider calling a plumber to check for tree roots. The plumber can remove the roots from your line. And, if you suspect the problem is in the main line, please call the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority at (856) 662-0686, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Think Twice About What You're Flushing

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and even "flushable" wipes, can't go down the toilet

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is asking residents to think twice about what they are flushing down their toilets.

Paper towels, tissues, napkins, disinfectant wipes, and even supposedly "flushable" wipes (they are not flushable or biodegradable), cannot be flushed down the toilet. The system can accommodate toilet paper, which is made to disintegrate quickly in water, but wipes and other materials, which don't break down as readily, clog pipes. That means sewer backups into the homes of the users or of others, as clogs form down the line. These blockages require jetting of the sewer main to clear.

We are seeing an increase in volume, which is to be expected given the num-

ber of people staying in their homes as part of efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

It's to everybody's benefit to use only toilet paper. Wipes might be able to flush, but that's when the unseen problems begin. While disposable wipes are a convenient and easy-to-use product that serve a variety of helpful purposes, they should be thrown in the trash following use. If manufacturers deem a product unsafe to go down the drain, it will be labeled on the packing. While there is debate over whether wipes labeled as "flushable" are truly safe for sewers, nonflushable products, like baby wipes, wet wipes and disinfectant wipes, are for your trash can.

In addition to stoppages in the main

line, which could cause a backup into homes and businesses, the potential for widespread service interruptions are possible if these nonflushable items reach a lift station and clog a pump. Not to mention the costs associated with removing a pump to clear the clog, which are borne by our rate payers.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority remains available 24 hours a day to assist residents during the State of Emergency. We have enacted a "No Public Contact" policy for the protection of our neighbors and our employees, but we will respond to all requests for assistance and will advise the homeowner of our findings by telephone. If you require assistance, call (856) 662-0686.

REMINDER:

CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday to Thursday – 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In light of COVID-19, the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority office has closed its offices and drive-thru as of Friday, November 20, 2020 and will reopen at a date not yet determined. We will be continuing to monitor the situation closely.

To make payments you can leave a check or money order in our drop box (do not leave cash), or mail to PO Box 518, Pennsauken, NJ 08110, you can also make a payment using your online banking, lastly you can go to our website, psewer.com and click on the pay online button and follow the instructions, you will need your account id and pin.

If there is a sewer emergency you are to call the emergency telephone number (856-662-0686) and someone will respond to the call. If you need to contact us for information, you can email customerservice@psewer.com and we will respond in a timely fashion.

IMPORTANT CUSTOMER INFORMATION

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

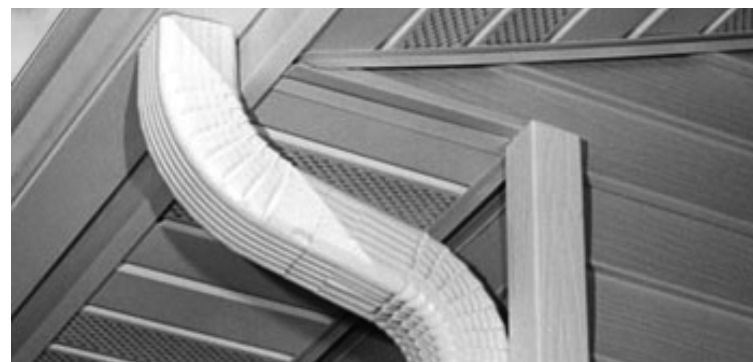
The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a back flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited.

Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.

Improper Connections Cause Property Damage

The connection of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. During periods of heavy rain, these connections often overwhelm the main lines. This could result in a sewage back up into your own home or the home of your neighbor. If you need additional information about these types of connections, or suspect you or a neighbor, may have an improper connection and want information about having it removed, please call our office at (856) 663-5542.



If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.



GRAYMATTERS Marshmallow Peeps From Rite Aid And The Value Of Time

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

I'm typing this slowly, so you won't read fast. It's a "time" thing – but I just can't help myself.

My friends, what you are holding in your hands is the April edition of All Around Pennsauken. April! The fourth month of the year already! Didn't you just take down your Christmas lights?

It seems to me that I just put the last of my window box fronds out for pickup from a Christmas tree that was chopped down in Williamsport, Pa., in November

2020.

That said, no matter how much we would like to see time slow down, or just allow for us to get a better grip on it, it is what it is.

Case in point: as you enter Rite Aid on Centre St. and take a hike down Aisle 2, you will find a virtual plethora of rainbow-colored Peeps that went up the day Valentine's Day candy came down. Those Peeps will be replaced with Fourth of July holiday items as soon as Peter Rabbit is back home with his family come Easter Monday.

You know, I've always been a girl who fights the good fight. And, although I hate to admit it, I'm certain Father Time is gonna' win this one. So, I might as well accept the fact that at my age, time has but one speed: warp!

But that doesn't mean I'm going to watch it blur on by me. I've always been the kind of person who looked at time for the adventure; for traveling to unknown, far off lands, or learning a new

language as a challenge and an interesting charge to my soul. No matter how long or short it took to happen.

I was also the kind of person who wanted to be and needed to be around people filled with love, compassion, purpose, integrity, fun, music in their hearts and souls, who appreciated the genuineness of true friendships, and who also had a deep innate knowledge in the workings of neighborhood, sisterhood,

and brotherhood, all of which are as good for the giver as they are for the receiver.

And I have been blessed with people like that throughout all the decades of my life – the slow and the fast ones.

Time can never rob you of being capable of doing those kind and loving things or feeling gratitude for being on the receiving end of those things.

And, while we "birds of a feather" have to fly a little faster these days, I guess I can make friends with that.

I guess we all can. As long as we're flying in the right direction – time will be on our side.

Now, I'm off to Rite Aid. There's a pack of yellow Peeps there with my name written all over them. I knew that was gonna' happen.

Peace and love and all good things... in time.

Your friend,
~ Judy

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Ashley currently resides in Cherry Hill. She attended Merchantville Elementary School and Camden Catholic High School. Ashley graduated from Rider University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications with Concentrations in TV & Radio Production and Marketing. She worked in Sports & Media Marketing with Greater Media Philadelphia's radio stations WMMR-FM 93.3, WPEN-FM 97.5 The Fanatic, and ESPN-AM 950.

Ashley decided in 2010 to pursue a career in the Funeral Industry and continue the family business. She received her Funeral Service Certificate from Mercer County College and her NJ Funeral Directors License in 2011. She is also a Certified Celebrant.

In the community, she is currently a parishioner at the Church of St. Peter in Merchantville and St. Stephen Church in Pennsauken, a sister of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority, and a Big Sister Mentor. In her free time she enjoys swimming and watching the Philadelphia Flyers.

In 2015, Ashley married her husband, Robert. In 2016 they welcomed their first child, Robert Edward Condon IV and in 2018 they welcomed their second child Anastasia Rose Condon.

Ashley spends her time volunteering with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, specifically with their NICU program, Grandma's Attic, which collects new, unused NICU clothing and blankets for the children in need.



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MPWC WATERLINES

MPWC Spring Hydrant Flushing Held This Month

Our Spring Hydrant Flushing Program will take place Sunday through Thursday nights beginning April 11 through April 22, between the hours of 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. Hydrant flushing is an important element in our continuous efforts to improve the quality of water in our system. This procedure clears the distribution system of non-harmful sediment that may build up over time, as well as to help us ensure that each hydrant is operating properly for firefighting purposes. The MPWC schedules hydrant flushing during night hours to create the least impact on our customers.

While we are flushing in your neighborhood, you may experience decreased water pressure and/or temporary discoloration of your water. While discoloration can be startling to see, rest assured it poses no health or safety issues, as the cause of the discoloration is non-harmful iron and manganese minerals.

The MPWC has been working diligently to notify all of our neighbors and customers of when we'll be in specific areas during the hydrant flushing period. For the most up-to-date information, please "Like" us on Facebook. We will post an updated list every day!

The MPWC will be posting flushing routes on our Facebook page throughout the duration of the spring program. If you see your street or a nearby cross street listed, we recommend not running your water between flushing times, as the best course of action to prevent an accidental draw of discolored water into your home or business system. If discoloration does occur, we advise you to simply run your cold water for a few minutes until it is clear. The MPWC encourages you to check for discolored water before doing laundry.

In addition, if you have not already signed up to get notifications from the MPWC, please visit our website at MPWC.com and click on the "Notify Me" button, so that you may receive notification of hydrant flushing, as well as any other service notifications should they arise in your area. If you have specific questions regarding the flushing program, please contact the MPWC's Customer Support Center at (856) 663-0043.

The MPWC has been working diligently to notify all of our neighbors and customers of when we'll be in specific areas during the hydrant flushing period. For the most up-to-date information, please "Like" us on Facebook. We will post an updated list every day!

MPWC Welcomes New Commissioners



The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission welcomes our newest commissioners: Shaker Ali, who was sworn in on Feb. 11; and Frank Warwick, who was sworn in on March 11.

A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

NEW for 2021: Because our lobby is currently closed to the public, we have mailed senior/disabled application forms to everyone currently receiving a discount. When you receive your form, complete it to the best of your ability and return it to us via U.S. Mail or by leaving it in our drop box on the side of the building. If you have questions or need assistance with completing your form, contact our Customer Support Center between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Remember: if you are currently receiving a discount, you must apply EACH year to continue receiving your discount.

If you are applying for the first time, please contact our office to request a form and to discuss the eligibility requirements.

You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at www.mpwc.com.

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Mr. Frank Warwick, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

In the GARDEN Spring's In Bloom, Time To Start Digging

By Victoria Rose, AAP Columnist

Hello again and happy spring! Yes, the bees are buzzing, and the birds are chirping their special songs. Spring is such a wonderful season of new beginnings and sunshine for the heart and soul. People are getting out of their "hibernation" by taking walks, riding bikes, firing up the grill, and getting their outdoor gardens ready.

Just how do those spring bulbs manage to always bloom around Easter, no matter what date the holiday falls upon us? Nature in all its beauty is amazing. Generally, the small crocus appears first, followed by the hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils. Then you'll see the trees with their

brehtaking pink and white flowers and the vibrant yellow forsythia bushes.

Now is the time for the big annual spring clean-up of your property. Rake up any remaining leaves and pull those weeds. You know the weeds grow like mad anywhere and everywhere. It is important that when you pull the weeds, you dig up the roots, so you get the whole pesky thing out for good. You can dig up any damaged areas of your lawn, add some topsoil, level the dirt, and add grass seed. Don't forget to water! If you have perennials, like hosta, ornamental grasses, and dianthus, now is a good time to split them in half and replant in another garden or gift to a friend to enjoy in their

garden. It is important to thin the plants out to encourage new, healthy growth.

If you want to plant some flowers, as tempting as it is when the weather is warm, do not plant annuals just yet. Just because the stores are selling them early does not mean they will survive in the ground, since we could still get frost dur-

ing the night. The best flowers to plant right now would be pansies and violas, which can survive in cold weather and frost. Many people say that the flowers' heart-shaped "faces" are smiling. Perhaps they are as happy as we are to enjoy the warmer weather. These plants come in bright colors of yellow, gold, red, white,

purple, and orange. They look cute in planters and can be in partial shade or full sun. Most importantly, make sure you water, especially if your pansies and violas are in full sun since they do get thirsty.

Thank you for taking the time to read my column. Until next time, bee kind, bee beautiful, and bee happy!

The Many Benefits Of Shade Trees In Our Community

By Richard Headley, Pennsauken Township Shade Tree Commission

There are variety of reasons why planting trees are beneficial to our Pennsauken community.

Trees act as natural filters. Like giant vacuum cleaners, trees reduce smog as well as respiratory problems by catching large and small particles as they float down through their canopy. Some of these particles from human activity are particularly harmful, such as acids, toxic hydrocarbons, and nitrogen compounds. Trees also catch pollen and dust blown up from the ground. In addition, trees exchange scents to attract or repel insects and pump out phytoncides, which have antibiotic properties. In a sense, they disinfect their surroundings while removing and storing carbon dioxide, as well as releasing oxygen back into the air.

Scientific studies have shown that leafy neighborhoods have a calming effect and can slow heartbeats, lower blood pressure, and relaxed brain wave patterns. Reading or studying among a group of trees is more likely to improve your memory retention and could improve school grades and overall health.

Tree-lined neighborhoods can also entice people to go outside and exercise. Trees can bring people together and even attract more foot traffic and increase pride in a neighborhood. If you want more foot traffic around business areas, trees can greet shoppers with a message of welcome.

When outside under a blazing hot summer sun, we many times look for a spot under the shade of a tree to cool off. Trees are natural air conditioners. They can release water vapor through their leaves, creating a cooling effect and lowering the temperature around their

canopies by 6 to 10 degrees. A mature shade tree can block up to 90 percent of solar radiation on a surface. This can translate to a significant reduction in your home cooling cost. A Pennsylvania study found that air conditioning needs could be reduced by up to 75 percent by shading a house with trees. And during the winter, trees act as a windbreak from cold winds thereby helping reduce house heating requirements.

Many recent studies are proving what we already know: that green landscapes give a psychological boost, making us feel happier and more relaxed. A research study found that Toronto citizens who lived in green, leafy neighborhoods have lower rates of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity, and other health conditions.

The New Jersey Tree Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to planting trees in the Garden State's cities, said trees boost health by first improving air quality by pulling ozone, particulates, and other pollutants out of the air. They provide shade and cooling in the summer and help break cold air in the winter.

Trees increase in value as they grow. Trees, as part of a well-maintained landscape, can add value to your home.

An informed homeowner can be responsible for many tree maintenance practices. Corrective pruning and mulching give young trees a good start. Shade trees, however, quickly grow to a size that may require the services of a professional arborist or a licensed tree expert. However, the benefits that shade trees provide far outweigh the effort to keep them healthy and strong.

Sources for this article include the International Society of Arboriculture, The New Jersey Shade Tree Federation, and the Arbor Day Foundation.

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Ribbon Cutting Held For Renovated Lida Knaus Food Pantry

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

For the past 40 years, the Lida Knaus Food Pantry at Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken has helped to feed those in need. In recent times, the congregation and its volunteers serve approximately 150 families each month. And thanks to a newly completed renovation, that call to service has taken on a brand-new level.

"We're here because of the people of Temple Lutheran Church," said Rev. Dave Stoner, the pastor of Temple Lutheran Church. "It's their generosity, not only the last 16 months we've been

working on this, but their generosity since 1962, to keep this building, this mission, this ministry of the Gospel here. That's what it's all about."

"This is a client choice food pantry. We're not handing a bag or a box to someone. They're actually physically coming in, getting a shopping cart, and going shopping," explained Matt McDevitt, the business manager of the church who also runs the Lida Knaus Food Pantry. "They're going to pick and choose what's right for them and their families. Their dignity is restored, and they get their choice."



Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista and members of Township Committee were on hand for the official opening of the Lida Knaus Food Pantry at Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken.

There were countless volunteers who made the food pantry's renovation possible, working faithfully on weekends during the last four months to see the project to completion. There were also several local businesses who provided essential services: electrician Frank Warwick; Stan's HVAC services; Moore's Tank Services, who removed the old oil tank for free; Jerry Thompson, church member and owner of Your Neighborhood Handyman; and JD Hilbert Construction, who has committed to doing the stucco work on the outside of the pantry free of charge. In addition, Emily Sutin, a graphic designer from Merchantville, was the winner of the logo design contest held by Temple Lutheran Church. She was on hand to cut the ribbon to officially open the Lida Knaus Food Pantry for business.

"We have fallen in love with the clients, the people who use this food pantry. Those families are everything to us," said Rev. Stoner. "They are counting on us. We do not want to let them down. And whatever we've gone through to get to this point truly is a drop in the bucket to what they have to go through

every day just to search out enough food to feed their families.

"I pray for them every day. We will continue to pray for them. And we will continue to find ways to serve them."

The Lida Knaus Food Pantry is located at 5600 N. Rt. 130 in Pennsauken. It is open on every fourth Saturday from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (856) 663-7783.

EDITOR'S DESK No Foolin'... This Stuff Actually Happened

By Frank Sinatra,
AAP Editor



As you may have guessed, this job comes with some... unique experiences. I got an email from the Illuminati World Elite Empire the other day, asking me if I'd like to join. Not quite sure if I have enough time to squeeze in a meeting. Maybe they Zoom?

Then a few years back, we got an advertising request for the paper. As part of accepting the ad, the individual wanted us to run a story asking residents to look out for and report UFO sightings. Apparently, extraterrestrials are attracted by fireworks. Who knew?

I also received a letter addressed to "Mayor Frank Sinatra" from a resident,

saying how much they enjoyed my articles. While I appreciate the compliments, I'm not ready for the promotion. I'll leave that to Marco.

Then there are the phone messages. I've gotten one where there was just music. That was a little spooky. But my all-time favorites are the folks that say they have a big story for me, but never leave their name and number. I'm not sure why. Maybe they're too busy looking for alien spaceships.

Enjoy your April! As you endure the crazy and silly things that come with the first day of this month, remember the wise saying, "Who's the more foolish? The fool or the fool who follows him?" I think that was in a movie or something.

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Pennsauken Township, Catalyst Experiential Cut Ribbon On Community Landmark *continued from page 1*

Mayor Marco DiBattista.

“The site that we’re standing on here today was actually identified as a site in need of transformation,” explained Amanda Toton, vice president for Catalyst Experiential. “Together, we were able to create a significant, esthetic improvement to this site and for the community.”

Located at 5324 Rt. 38, The “living

clocktower” features a vertical wall of living plants, which are watered through an irrigation system inside. The clocktower sits in the middle of a pond that is a third of an acre in size and surrounded by several water fountains and 132 tons of natural boulders. Sixty-two 20-foot-tall evergreen trees serve as a backdrop to the installation and act as

a natural sound barrier for the traffic on the highway.

“The design features are not only custom built but designed in a way to bring green space and natural elements back into this environment,” said Toton.

On both sides of the clocktower is a high-quality digital display, which primarily contains advertising, the revenue

from which enables the maintenance and upkeep of the landmark. In addition, the ordinance passed by Pennsauken Township’s Planning Board allows time for municipal, civil, or emergency messaging at two-minute intervals.

“It’s nice to know that we’ll be able to share important information with our residents, so they can be aware of what’s happening in our town,” said Mayor DiBattista.

Catalyst Experiential purchased the property, leveled the existing structure, and completed the redevelopment using

their own company funds. They are also responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the site. No Township or taxpayer funds were used at any point.

A sister location to the clocktower is currently being finished by Catalyst on Rt. 70, at the site of a former rug store. Work is anticipated to be completed in the coming months.

“It means a lot to us to have Catalyst in our Township,” said Mayor DiBattista. “Instead of an eyesore along a heavily traveled highway, they’ve created something spectacular.”

South Jersey Sanitation Sold, Becomes Seaside Waste *continued from page 1*

will remain the same for Pennsauken residents

- Our town’s trash rules and regulations will also remain the same

Pennsauken Township is in year three of a three-year contract for waste collection services. Later this year, the Township will decide whether to exercise the fourth and/or fifth year options that were provided with the bid.

Please continue to communicate with Public Works for any service issues. In ad-

dition, residents can continue to call South Jersey Sanitation/Seaside Waste at (609) 561-0441, as the office staff is remaining in place.

As this business transaction is completed, Township officials will meet with the new management team to ensure continuity of collection services.

I feel it’s worth mentioning again: while the management team and the name on the side of the truck has changed, our town’s trash and recycling

collection, as well as yard waste pickup, remains the same. We will experience the same six trash holidays during the year: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Each of these days will push the schedule to the next day, just like it always has worked.

If you have any questions at all, simply call the Public Works office at (856) 663-0178 or email us at publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

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DEATH NOTICES



Rev. Pilarz, S.J.

The Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., 'H15, Pennsauken native and president of the University of Scranton, passed away on March 10 in Scranton from complications related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He was 61.

Father Pilarz served as Scranton's president for two terms: first as the 24th president from 2003-2011; then as the 27th president from 2018-2021. He was the second-longest-serving president in Scranton's history. He announced his ALS diagnosis in 2018, committing himself to continued service and to raising awareness about the disease.

Prior to Father Pilarz returning to

The Rev. Scott R. Pilarz S.J., President Of Scranton University

Scranton for his second term as president, he served as president of Georgetown Preparatory School in Washington, D.C., from 2014 to 2018. He was also president of Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from 2011 to 2013.

Always a teacher at heart, he found time during his various administrative positions to teach courses and seminars focused on Shakespeare, Renaissance poetry and prose, and Jesuit education.

Earlier in his career, he served as an assistant professor of English and Interim University Chaplain at Georgetown University, where he worked on numerous committees and leadership roles for various academic and spiritual programs, and retreats for students and alumni. During his Jesuit formation, he was a visiting professor at St. Joseph's University, a lecturer

in philosophy at Sts. Peter & Paul Seminary at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and an English teacher at Loyola High School, Towson, Maryland.

Fr. Pilarz received multiple awards for teaching, service, and scholarship, including the John Carroll Award from Georgetown University for lifetime achievement, the highest honor bestowed by the Georgetown University Alumni Association. He received the Ignatian Award from Scranton Preparatory School, and was awarded honorary degrees from King's College, Wilkes University, Marywood University and the University of Scranton. He served on the board of trustees of several institutions,

including Boston College and Saint Joseph's University, and as president of the board of his alma mater, Camden Catholic High School.

A proud Polish son of New Jersey and an avid dog lover, Father Pilarz earned a bachelor's degree in English from Georgetown University, winning three Saint Genevieve Awards for his acting and directing; a master's degree in philosophy from Fordham University; and a master's degree in divinity from the Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He earned a Ph.D. in English at the City University of New York. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1981 and was ordained a priest

in 1992.

A devoted son, brother and uncle, Father Pilarz is survived by his parents, Ron and Joan Pilarz; a sister, Susan, and brother-in-law, Joseph Lappin, Lewisville, Texas; a niece, Carly; nephew, Joey; and grandniece, Marin.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. Scholarship that will provide financial assistance to University of Scranton students in need. Contributions can be sent to the Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. Scholarship, c/o University Advancement, the University of Scranton, 800 Linden St., Scranton, 18510.

Remembering Two Longtime Residents



Himes

Robert "Bob" S. Himes, age 64 years of Pennsauken, passed away peacefully at Samaritan Hospice in Voorhees with his family by his side. He was the beloved husband of Sharon L. (nee Makin); devoted father of Jaimie Engel (Steven) and Shanna O'Loughlin (Gaelen); loving grandfather of Jacqueline, Cassidy, Reese and James; and dear brother of Roy Himes, Walt Himes and the late Ray and Bill Himes. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Prior to his illness, Bob was employed with ABC Sign Systems in Pennsauken for over 40 years. He loved scratch offs, a cold beer, and vacationing with friends in Hayesville, NC. All services are being held privately at the convenience of the family. The family would like memorial donations in Bob's memory to Samaritan Hospice, 3906 Church Road, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054.

Stephen C. Ackerman

Stephen C. Ackerman, age 60, died March 2, 2021. Born in Philadelphia, he was a 53-year resident of Pennsauken.

He was the beloved partner and best friend of James Cicalese for 35 years; the beloved son of the late Rose (nee Fedalen) and Charles Ackerman; and loving brother of the late Carol (Ackerman) Griffith, Joyce (DJ) Price, and Christine (Vartkes) Apkarian. Stephen is also survived by two nephews, Michael (Kristin) Griffith and Sean (Lisa) Mahoney; a niece, Alexandra (Andrew) Kushnir; two grandnephews, Simon and Connor; and a grandniece, Emma, as well as many loving cousins.

Stephen was a 1978 graduate of Camden
continued on page 26

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FOODADVENTURES



There are 700 different species of garlic, and this special vegetable offers a variety of health benefits.

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

This month, I'm bringing you fun facts about something that's about 4,000 years old, we eat about two pounds of it every year, and it's deliciously odorless. It's garlic! April is National Garlic Month and deserves to be known. This staple can be found in every aspect of a meal, but also possesses some of the strongest healing benefits out there.

In Egypt, 3200 A.D., garlic was coveted by kings and beggars. It was fed to the slaves who built the pyramids to give them increased strength. Garlic was buried with many great pharaohs for use in the afterlife. It was used to cure dozens of ailments among the Egyptian people and that tradition has continued. Today, you can find garlic in everything. There are teas that promise a slimmer physique with the help of this little veggie.

Sixteen states within the U.S., as well as

Alluring Allium For April... Also Known As Garlic

Canada, England, and Australia, host garlic festivals. New Jersey doesn't take part in this yet, but all of our neighboring states do. Pennsylvania actually holds three: one in August, one in September, and one in October. At festivals like these, you will find cook-off events, bizarre and amazing foods, and all that could possibly pay homage to garlic. There is usually live music; and in places like Shawnee Mountain Ski Resort, you can enjoy garlic everything with the backdrop of the beautiful mountains around you. Be sure to see the Garlic Pie Man if you go. Rumor has it that his pizza-like pies hold a whopping three cups of garlic on them! This festival has been thriving for over 25 years.

There are actually 700 different species of garlic, which is part of the onion family. Of those 700 species, there are two categories they can be placed in: hard neck or soft neck. Hard neck varieties are sturdier and can handle colder temperatures, while soft neck garlic – like wild garlic – does much better in warm weather and is more fragile. Some would argue that soft neck garlic is also more potent.

Garlic has so many great health benefits, including lowering cholesterol, reducing blood pressure, eliminating acne and cold sores, AND boosting your immune system with a barrage of amazing vitamins and minerals. Garlic is a superfood, folks. So, if your recipe calls for two cloves, don't fight the urge to amp up your next meal with something super.

Another perk is that you can get garlic anywhere. Every grocer has it and you

can even find natural garlic in some backyards. Wild field garlic can be used just like regular garlic or chives to season any meal that needs it. My suggestion, if you forage wild garlic, is to chop it up and sprinkle it on a baked potato with some shredded cheese.

Another fun, fantastic benefit from glorious garlic includes its ability to ward off mosquitos. It's a natural bug repellent!

I want to see your fun garlic creations! Head to "AAP Food Adventures" on Facebook and share your latest garlicky feast for all the AAP food adventurers

to enjoy. You can also email me about your great food experiences at FoodAdventuresPennsauken@gmail.com. Tell me why you love garlic, share how you've used garlic in your everyday life, and no matter what, always enjoy your Food Adventures!

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Next-Gen Dunkin' Store Opens In Pennsauken



Members of Township Committee and Pennsauken's Police Department were on hand for the ribbon-cutting of the new, next-generation Dunkin' restaurant on Rt. 73.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

At the end of January, the newest next-generation Dunkin' store opened its doors on Rt. 73. And on Feb. 25, Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista, members of Township Committee, as well as officers from Pennsauken's police department, were on hand for the store's ribbon cutting.

The next-gen Dunkin' restaurant features a new, modern look, state-of-the-art coffee equipment for consistent, quality cold and hot beverages, customizable donuts, a faster drive-thru system, and convenient, mobile pick up.

"You'll see a lot of upgrades in equipment, like our new tap system," explained

continued on page 26

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

It's been said that "April is the cruellest month." We've had quite enough cruel months over the past year, so fingers crossed we're in for a well-deserved break, weather-wise, health-wise and otherwise. While the Friends can't do anything about the weather, we can continue to offer everyone ways to keep healthy virtually, while we're still pretty much staying inside, and give everyone a creative outlet by entering our annual poetry contest.

Our four chair yoga sessions can improve health, sense of wellbeing, and

Friends Sponsor Virtual Wellness Programs, Poetry Contest

flexibility. They're deceptively simple exercises anyone can do, and the rewards are worth the effort. Classes are held on four successive Fridays through the month on the 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., so plan for gentle stretching and a good workout!

You can register for all four classes by completing and submitting the form located at <https://bit.ly/3cs4hqO>. You'll receive a confirmation email along with a direct link to the classes.

Poetry Contest Submissions Due April 30

Our Friends of the Pennsauken Li-

brary Annual Poetry Contest submissions are due by Friday, April 30, at 6:00 p.m., via any one of three ways: an electronic PDF to folpennsauken@gmail.com; mailed to Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library Poetry Contest, 5605 Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110; or dropped off in-person at the same address. The contest is open to all Pennsauken and Merchantville residents, and applicants cannot have won in the previous two years. Entries must be original, not previously published, and by only one per person. Check out all the details about submission requirements and categories in the

circulation desk flyer at the library or on our website at www.pennsaukenlibraryfriends.org. Winners will be asked to read and video their poem to be included in the Contest Award Presentation video to be posted to YouTube by Pennsauken TV on or about May 12. Here's hoping you're one of them!

Remembering Two Longtime Residents

continued from page 24

den Catholic High School and received his Associate Degree at Camden County College. He was also a graduate of the American Academy of Broadcasting. He worked as a DJ in Trenton and at WKDN in Camden. He was a long-time customer service rep at the Sears service center in Pennsauken.

He will be dearly remembered for his deep faith, kindness, and his heart of compassion for others.

A Funeral Mass was held at Mary Queen of All Saints in Pennsauken. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery in Cherry Hill.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Stephen's alma mater, St. Cecilia School, in care of Sister Alicia Perna at 4824 Camden Ave., Pennsauken, NJ, 08110.

Next-Gen Dunkin' Store Opens In Pennsauken

continued from page 25

Ali Adnan, district manager, SUDH Management. "We're focused on giving a great experience for all our guests."

"Our next-gen restaurant is for the millennials," added Vedant Trivedi, director of operations, SUDH Management. "We want them and all of our customers to come enjoy our new drinks and donuts. Pennsauken runs on Dunkin'."

In addition to the ribbon cutting, the Dunkin' franchise made a \$1,000 donation to the Food Bank of South Jersey, to help the organization fight food insecurity in our region.

"We're proud to have businesses like Dunkin' inside of our town," said Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista. "They are not only willing to reinvest into what they're doing for our community but are also supporting important causes to help those in need."

Located at 1041 Route 73 South, the 2,400 square-foot next-gen Dunkin' restaurant employs approximately 12 crew members and is open daily from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The new restaurant also offers complimentary Wi-Fi for guests and a convenient drive-thru. For more information, visit www.DunkinDonuts.com.



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Pennsauken's New Pickleball Courts Open On River Road continued from page 1

out, working hard, driving down the road to use the bathroom," said Mayor Marco DiBattista during his remarks on March 13. "We allocated funds from the Camden County Open Space Trust Fund, along with some of our own funds, to create a dedicated pickleball complex."

Located next door to Pennsauken's Municipal Pool, the pickleball complex features six courts, lights for nighttime play, and restrooms. Work was also done on the parking lot to make it easier for players to

get in and out. Overflow parking is available at the pool; and a maintained trail can be used to access the courts.

"We're excited to get everybody involved here," added Mayor DiBattista. "With a great, safe place for our residents to play pickleball, we envision a lot of great tournaments here."

This project is part of a larger investment in creating outdoor activities for Pennsauken residents. Last year, the Township's municipal government renovated Delaware Gardens Park on 49th St. and River Rd. The softball field received a major upgrade, with new dugouts and new fencing. Across the street, a multi-use path was installed

throughout the park. Fitness equipment and park benches are placed strategically along the path. In addition, the new path extends from Delaware Gardens Park along Bannard Ave., connecting to Tippin's Pond, where two decks were reconstructed. And plans are in the works to make improvements at both the skate park at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex at Westfield and Bethel avenues, as well as to Jackson Park, located at 45th St. and Jackson Ave.

"This new pickleball complex is a snapshot of Township Committee's dedication to enhancing Pennsauken's outdoor spaces," explained Mayor DiBattista. "We

listened to our residents and worked with them to create a perfect place to play the game. Our municipal government is committed to providing the people of Pennsauken with services and facilities right here in town that improve their quality of life."

Pennsauken residents who wish to take advantage of the Township's pickleball complex on River Rd. must complete a pickleball court application via Pennsauken's website. Individuals will

be required to provide proof of residency (driver's license) and pay the \$10 yearly permit fee. Keys will be issued to residents to access the courts and restrooms. The key and membership are not transferable as per Township Ordinance 226. To download a copy of the form, visit www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/river-road-pickleball-complex. For additional information or questions, call the Pennsauken Parks and Recreation Department at (856) 665-1000 x151.

Pennsauken's Best Mom, Dad Or Guardian Contest Returns

continued from page 1

Pennsauken children about the important people in their lives. As parents and guardians have gone above and beyond helping their kids during the pandemic, we're really looking forward to reading the ones for 2021," says Elwood Martz, who helps organize the contest. "If your child has never sent a letter in for this contest, we encourage those children eligible to participate to do so; and for those third, fourth and fifth graders who sent in letters in the past and haven't won yet, don't be afraid to try again. This could be your year!"

The first-, second- and third-place winners will receive recognition and prizes at the Township Committee's meeting on Thursday, May 20, held virtually at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom conferencing software.

The winners for 2020 were Mehar Afzal, who wrote about her mother, who's a substitute teacher; Angela Candelaria-Torres, whose grandmother helped with class work while also battling cancer; and Adam Sinatra, who submitted an entry about his mom, who is "the key" to his "school heart."

Judging

Letters will be judged by a panel on originality, content and ability to express feelings and ideas. Entrants are encouraged to be creative in their submissions. There is no "wrong" way to highlight the special person in their lives.

How to Enter

All entries for all contests may be mailed to "Best Mom, Dad or Guardian Contest," Pennsauken Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken 08110, Attn. Elwood Martz. Letters may also be e-mailed to emartz@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

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Programs For Children And Families

- Preschool Storytime – Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20 & 27; 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina for virtual, interactive story time fun, live via Zoom! Online registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplstory21>. For children ages 3+ and their caregivers.
- What's New in Youth Services – Friday, April 9; 10:00 a.m. Ms. Susan and Ms. Sabrina provide a quick virtual tour of the Youth Services Department, live on Facebook, including a discussion of new materials, upcoming programs, and a Q&A.
- Animal Crossing "Isle of PL" Grand Opening – Monday, April 5; noon to

8:00 p.m. The "Isle of PL" is now open and ready to welcome Animal Crossing New Horizons players of all ages! To visit, add the PFPL's Nintendo Friend Code, SW-3902-1262-4235; then once playing, visit your airport, and select "visit through online play" to find us. Note: A Nintendo Online subscription is required for online play. For questions, contact youthservices@pennsaukenlibrary.org or (856) 665-5959 ext. 6.

- Talewise Presents: Earth Day: Revenge of the Toxic Robot – Tuesday, April 6; 4:00 p.m. This STEAM-focused virtual program presented by the science-tellers from Talewise is fun for all ages! When the town's park is suddenly gated and locked, a group of friends decides to investigate. For all ages. Advance registration required. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/pfpltalewise>.
- Tinker Fairy Storytime – Wednesday, April 7; noon. Via Zoom, the "Tinker Fairy" will share stories, songs, and even give participants a taste of fairy training! Feel free to wear your favorite fairy outfit! Advance registration at <https://tinyurl.com/pfpltinker> is required for this virtual event; Zoom login information will be sent to participants via email. If you have any questions, please call (856) 665-5959

ext. 6 or email youthservices@pennsaukenlibrary.org.

- Among Us! – Friday, April 9; 6:00 p.m. For ages 9 and up. Advanced registration required at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplamongus>. Join the Pennsauken Free Public Library for a competitive hour of "Among Us." Participants will play together over Zoom. Participants must have their own access to the game via mobile download (available free in the Google Play or App store), desktop computer, or Nintendo Switch. Please call (856) 665-5959 or email youthservices@pennsaukenlibrary.org with questions.
- ZOO-m with Barn Hill Preserve – Saturday, April 10; noon. For all ages. Advance registration at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplbarn> required, as limited spots are available. Come get "wild" with this virtual meet-and-greet with Barn Hill Preserve's Animal Ambassadors. Participants will be able to talk with the animal keepers, ask questions, and enjoy the cute-ness overload of a virtual sloth and kangaroo visit!
- hipPOP fitness – Thursday, April 22; 7:00 p.m. For teens and young adults (adults also welcome). Join certified instructor Amanda DeSouza for this virtual exercise class! hipPOP fitness® is a triple threat: dance,

strength and yoga all in one class!

Register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplhipfit>. Questions? Please call 856-665-5959 ext. 6 or email youthservices@pennsaukenlibrary.org.

- Take a (Virtual) Hike! – Tuesday, April 22; 6:30 p.m. Free registration at <https://tinyurl.com/pfpltrails>. Anya Saretzky of Rails to Trails will discuss the plans for the circuit trail segment that will run through Pennsauken; and Mike McCormick of South Jersey Trails will share resources for finding local trails. Questions and comments welcomed!

p.m. Author, Auctioneer, Appraiser and Radio show Host Mike Ivankovich will introduce you to "What Determines Value" and reveal what your antiques, collectibles, and personal treasures are really worth today. Each attendee is invited to show one or two items for Mike to appraise. To access the live event, visit <https://tinyurl.com/pfplmikea>.

- Ask-A-Librarian Live Online – Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m.; Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.; Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. Have a question? Connect one-on-one with a librarian online. Visit [PennsaukenLibrary.org](https://pennsaukenlibrary.org) for details. Can't chat online? Call (856) 665-5959 and leave a message. Dial ext. 4 for Reference or ext. 5 for Youth Services.

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inSports Pennsauken Becomes Unified Champion School

The Pennsauken Athletic Department was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Special Olympics to expand their current unified sports program. Unified sports are a combination of special needs

students and regular education students working together athletically. Currently, Pennsauken High School has unified programs in soccer, bowling, and track and field. The grant allows Pennsauken

to be a Unified Champion School, so the program can expand to Pennsauken Intermediate School and Phifer Middle School, as well as add a new feature at all levels: Esports.

"This grant will open the door for so many more students to interact and get involved," explained Billy Snyder, athletic director. "I am really excited about expanding a very successful model to the Park Avenue Campus. This program benefits everyone involved and really builds a sense of community."

John Nguyen, seen in the picture accompanying this article, has played unified soccer, bowling, and track and field at Pennsauken High School for the past three years. During a bowling match, John rolled four strikes in a row, helping his unified team roll a 170 that game. He has made a whole new group of friends;



PHS student John Nguyen has participated in unified sports for the past three years.

and when John walks the hallways, everyone knows his name and recognizes his energy and smile. There are a lot of John Nguyen's out there; this grant and this program is going to give them even more opportunities to grow.

Pope Twins Sign National Letters Of Intent



PHS seniors Jasmine and Jade Pope have signed their national letters of intent to run track for their universities. Jasmine is attending Saint Peter's University; and Jade is headed to DePaul University.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Two PHS seniors have signed their national letters of intent, continuing their track experiences at the collegiate level. Jasmine Pope will be attending Saint Peter's University and will study criminal justice. Her twin sister, Jade, is headed to DePaul University as a biology major.

"I chose Saint Peter's because it was close to home," said Jasmine. "There's a family environment. I already felt like I was a part of the team."

"DePaul also felt like home to me," added Jade. "The coaches made me feel comfortable."

"When Jasmine and Jade came to Pennsauken High School and first walked

around the track as freshmen, they had a lot of potential," said Billy Snyder, athletic director for Pennsauken High School. "Watching them over the last four years, the decisions that they made were the right ones. It takes talent, hard work, and a lot of good decisions along the way to get a high school student-athlete to this point."

The Pope twins both have a GPA over 3.0, hold multiple school records, and are no strangers to the winner's circle at the state's Meet of Champions. Indoor track season wrapped last month; and with outdoor season still to come, these talented young ladies are ready to show what they can do, leaving their high school careers on a high note.

PYAA SPORTS

PYAA Looking For Volunteers

Pennsauken Youth Athletic Activities (PYAA) is accepting volunteers for the 2021 season. Meetings will be held every first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for Pennsauken residents at the PYAA Fieldhouse, 3501 Elm Ave. Come

support the youth of Pennsauken, develop lasting relationships, and have fun!

Interested parties who have questions can email admin@pyaa.net. For more information about the organization and its programs, visit PYAA.net.

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